## Message Text

SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /054 W

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O 222154Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4498 INFO USMISSION NATO

SECRETOTTAWA 07610

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MILI, CA SUBJECT: TENTATIVE PDM DECISION ON CONUS AIR DEFENSE MODERNIZATION

REF: STATE 198015

- 1. AMBASSADOR CONVEYED BASIC ELEMENTS OF REFTEL TO DND DEPUTY MINISTER NIXON ON AUGUST 19. DCM, ACCOMPANIED BY DATT, FOLLOWED UP WITH CALL ON NIXON AUGUST 22 IN ORDER TO PRESENT TEXT REFTEL PARA ONE AND RECEIVE PRELIMINARY GOC REACTIONS. PAT BLACK (ADM POL) AND LT. GENERAL LEWIS (DCDS) WERE ALSO PRESENT.
- 2. NIXON INDICATED GOC WOULD STUDY TENTATIVE PDM IMMEDIATELY AND GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT INITIAL RESPONSE MAY BE IN FORM OF SEVERAL QUESTIONS TO ELICIT FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT FACTORS UNDERLYING TENTATIVE DECISION. HE HAD INFERRED THAT BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS IMPACTED SIGNIFICANTLY ON DECISION-MAKING PROCESS BUT ALSO WONDERED WHETHER USG HAD IN ANY WAY ALTERED ITS ESTIMATE OF THREAT. POINTING TO BREVITY OF THIS COMMUNICATION, HE SAID DND WOULD STAFF IT OUT BUT WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE SECRET

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ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND. FOR EXAMPLE, HE NOTED THAT TENTATIVE PDM RAISED SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP IN FUTURE OF NORTH AMERICAN AND NATO AWACS PROGRAMS. IN ANY CASE, NIXON INDICATED THAT INITIAL RESPONSE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY, PROBABLY THROUGH CANADIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON.

3. FYI EMBASSY WILL ALSO INFORM APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN EXTAFF AS WELL AS IVAN HEAD IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. DUEMLING

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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